

SCR146

Date: 03/28/2011

Committee: Senate Education
Senate Energy and Environment

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 146

Purpose of Resolution: Requesting a Study of the Average Amount of Waste Produced at Hawaii's Public High Schools and Establishment of a Pilot Program to Reduce the Amount of Waste Produced in all Public Schools.

Department's Position: The department does not support this resolution because waste reduction studies have been conducted by the Sustainable Saunders Group of the University of Hawaii at Keoneula Elementary School, and another is currently in progress at Kalani High School. A portion of these studies aims to conduct refuse audits through a series of dumpster dives, which in essence segregates the waste stream in categories to explore ways to reuse and recycle trash. We are also in the process of applying for grants to conduct a food waste diversion analysis of a middle school, so that a cross comparative analysis between an elementary, middle and high school can be done. The department aims to use the recommendations in these studies to develop an overall strategy which is both ecologically and economically feasible, in order to reduce waste going to the landfills. It should also be noted the department is in partnership with the National Resource Energy Laboratory in developing a strategic plan to support the green

sustainable goals of the State of Hawaii. Accordingly although the department concurs with the spirit and intent of the resolution, it feels that it is already undertaking the study and program being requested.

David Miyamoto
47-690 Mapele Rd.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

EDU/ENE Public Hearing
Room 225
March 28, 2011, 1:15 P.M.

Testimony of David Miyamoto in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 146

Good afternoon Senators,

My name is David Miyamoto and I am a current senior at Castle High School. I am testifying in support of SCR 146 which requests the Department of Education conduct a study that determines how much waste Hawaii public high schools produce and create a pilot program to reduce that amount of waste. It is estimated that each student produces about 1.33 pounds of waste a year equaling to 240 pounds of waste per student per school year. With the limited landfill space we have living on an island, this amount of trash must be curtailed.

The recent closures at the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill have emphasized this need for lessening trash entering our landfill. The medical waste and runoff from the landfill that entered the ocean epitomized the harmful effects landfills can have on our environment. The deluge of contaminated water and trash contaminated the ocean causing beach closures as well as the temporary closure of the landfill. However, runoff has the potential to be much more serious than closed beaches. With the right type and amount of waste, runoff can wreak serious havoc on the environment.

The Waimanalo Gulch Landfill is also reaching full capacity. The Land Use Commission has required that the City and County of Honolulu identify a new landfill site by 2012. Because we live on an island, there is limited space for these landfills making it difficult to choose a site that will please all. Reducing the amount of trash that enters the landfill may not be the ultimate solution to this problem, but it certainly addresses it and is one step in the right direction.

One way to reduce waste is to teach students reasons and ways to throw away less. To establish paradigms such as recycling or wasting less is something that is feasible in schools, whether it is through curriculum or through practices. Finding out exactly how much waste a school produces and then creating a program that addresses this waste teaches students how and why waste reduction is important while lessening the impact the school has on the environment. This resolution does not only reduce waste, it invests in the future of both our islands and our students.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Miyamoto

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:54 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: managirl808@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR146 on 3/28/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/ENE 3/28/2011 1:15:00 PM SCR146

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Leila Manivong
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: managirl808@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/23/2011

Comments:

I fully support the efforts to reduce waste on our public school campuses. As a teacher, I am appalled at the amount of waste that our school produces. Particularity in the cafeteria. Currently we throw away an excessive amount of unopened milk cartons on a daily basis because the kids are given one on their tray and they do not open it. I've personally witnessed hundreds of cartons of unopened milk go into the rubbish bin each day. Completely wasteful, please come up with a solution that is acceptable to all. Mahalo nui loa.